

May 7, 2007

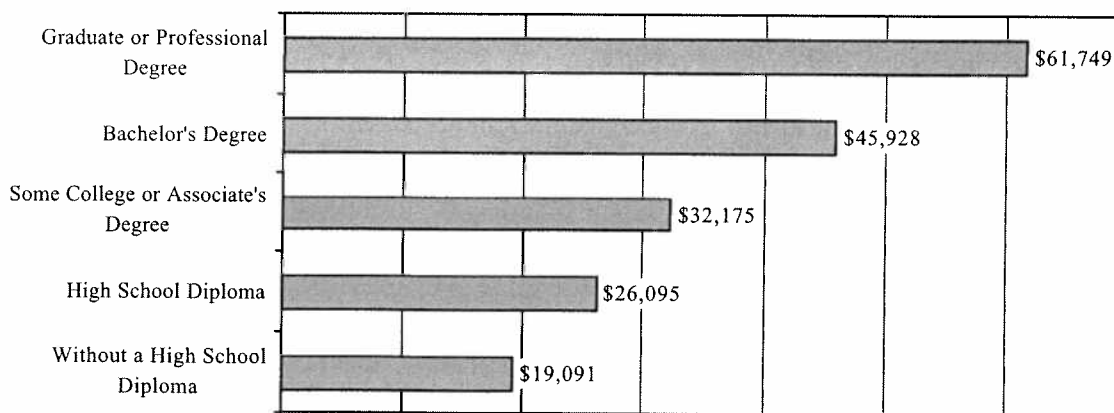
What is a high school diploma worth in Michigan?

In 2005, there were over 150,000 young adults, aged 18-24 – more than one of every six young adults in Michigan – who do not have a high school diploma. Of young people aged 16-19, over 35,000 were not in school and do not have a high school diploma, according to the American Community Survey, conducted each year by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Alliance for Excellent Education estimates that 45,700 Michigan students did not graduate with their peers in 2006. Michigan does not have the data collection and reporting system necessary to accurately discuss the scope of the problem, though efforts are in place to improve.

The lack of a high school diploma has lasting and well-documented impacts. The completion of high school is required for college, and is a minimum requirement for most jobs. Conversely, high school dropouts are more likely to be unemployed, spend more time reliant on government assistance, and become involved in crime. Higher levels of educational attainment lead to higher wages and income, as well as jobs with opportunities for advancement, and more protection against unemployment. Women and men who have completed their own basic education are more likely to have the maturity and skills to parent more effectively, and be more adept in dealing with health and education systems to promote the well-being of their own children.

In addition to estimated increases in public health and criminal justice costs, there are real economic losses for Michigan communities when young people fail to graduate from high school. Because of the disparities, communities with more young people of color experience even heavier losses. Michigan loses at least \$7,000 every year for each young person who doesn't graduate. That amount increases significantly for those young people who, with success in high school, would have gone on to higher education.

Michigan loses at least \$7,000 each year for every adult without a high school diploma.



Source: 2005 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2007.

What does this mean financially to Michigan communities?

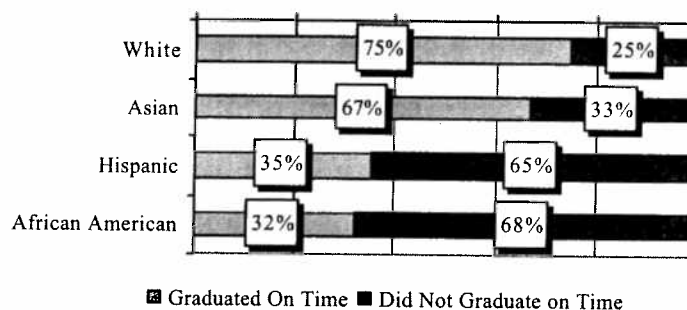
Michigan loses at least \$7,000 each year for every adult without a high school diploma. For every high school dropout who would have gone on to receive a bachelor's degree, the state loses nearly \$27,000 annually.

- ✓ If we could graduate 10,000 more young people in Michigan, the state's communities would benefit from at least an additional \$70 million in earnings each year.
- ✓ If we could encourage 25,000 young adults without a high school diploma to return to complete that credential in Michigan, the state's communities would benefit from at least an additional \$175 million in earnings each year.
- ✓ If we could get 1,000 high school dropouts in Michigan to complete a bachelor's degree, the state's communities would benefit from at least an additional \$27 million in earnings each year.

Who is not graduating from high school in Michigan?

The situation is disproportionately bleak for youth of color. Racial and ethnic disparities in educational achievement in Michigan are among the worst in the country, and the gap in test scores between African American and White children increases as children move through middle school to high school. African American, American Indian and Latino youth are more than twice as likely to drop out of school as White youth, and African American youth are twice as likely as White youth to be pushed out of school through expulsion.

African American and Hispanic youth were fully half as likely to graduate on time than their white peers.
2002-2003 School Year



Source: *Understanding High School Graduation Rates in Michigan*, Alliance for Excellent Education, 2007.

Why don't more young people graduate?

- Michigan lacks a coordinated strategy to help reduce the future scope of the out-of-school youth problem. Current efforts are piecemeal, scattered throughout the major state departments, not coordinated, and not a high priority within most state departments.
- There is too little attention paid to ending practice of pushing out youth who arrive at high school undereducated and with limited skill development.
- Michigan's "zero tolerance" suspension and expulsion laws are much more expansive than federal requirements and most other states.
- There is too little effort made to gather data on the young people who leave school; both to ensure they have reengaged and to assess progress.
- There are few quality options available for young people who have severed ties with school.
- There is a lack of political will to undertake the still-needed effort to monitor and eradicate race and class inequities that place low-income African American and Hispanic youth in systems without resources and capacity to provide quality educational options.

What can we do right now in Michigan to promote more high school success?

Remove barriers in federal and state policies that discourage schools from providing multiple pathways to graduation. Dropping out often is a symptom of a range of issues that schools cannot tackle alone. We need to work together through initiatives like the Shared Youth Vision Partnership to better coordinate services across departments and agencies to best help our students.

For more information on current advocacy efforts that impact vulnerable children and families, visit Michigan's Children's website at <http://www.michiganschildren.org>.

House Education Committee Members High School Dropout Statistics

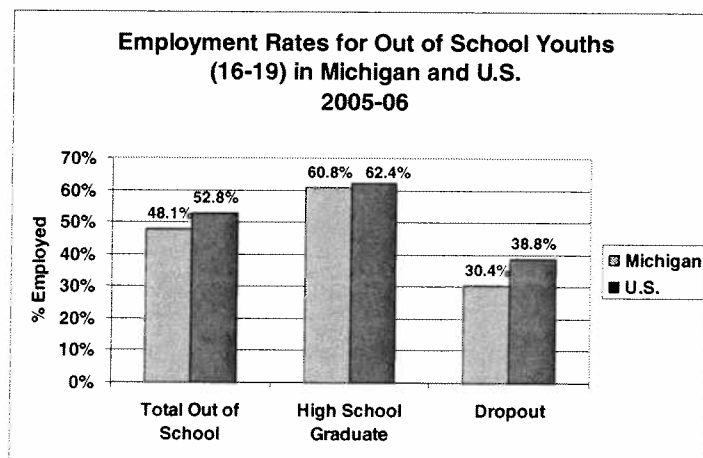
	% Without High School Degree
<u>Tim Melton (D), Committee Chair, 29th District</u>	26.5%
<u>Lisa Brown (D), Majority Vice-Chair, 39th District</u>	7.4%
<u>Timothy Bledsoe (D), 1st District</u>	9.5%
<u>Barb Byrum (D), 67th District</u>	12.4%
<u>Marc R. Corriveau (D), 20th District</u>	11.4%
<u>Douglas A. Geiss (D), 22nd District</u>	24.5%
<u>Jennifer Haase (D), 32nd District</u>	14.9%
<u>Deb Kennedy (D), 23rd District</u>	14.9%
<u>Steven Lindberg (D), 109th District</u>	14.3%
<u>David E. Nathan (D), 11th District</u>	28.7%
<u>Gino Polidori (D), 15th District</u>	21.1%
<u>Sarah Roberts (D), 24th District</u>	14.6%
<u>Joel Sheltroun (D), 103rd District</u>	22.2%
<u>Mary Valentine (D), 91st District</u>	14.4%
<u>Phil Pavlov (R), Minority Vice-Chair, 81st District</u>	15.4%
<u>Justin Amash (R), 72nd District</u>	9.9%
<u>Richard Ball (R), 85th District</u>	14.9%
<u>Larry DeShazor (R), 61st District</u>	7.5%
<u>Tom McMillin (R), 45th District</u>	6.8%
<u>Tom Pearce (R), 73rd District</u>	11.6%
<u>Paul Scott (R), 51st District</u>	8.6%
<u>Sharon Tyler (R), 78th District</u>	17.0%
<u>John J. Walsh (R), 19th District</u>	11.1%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data.

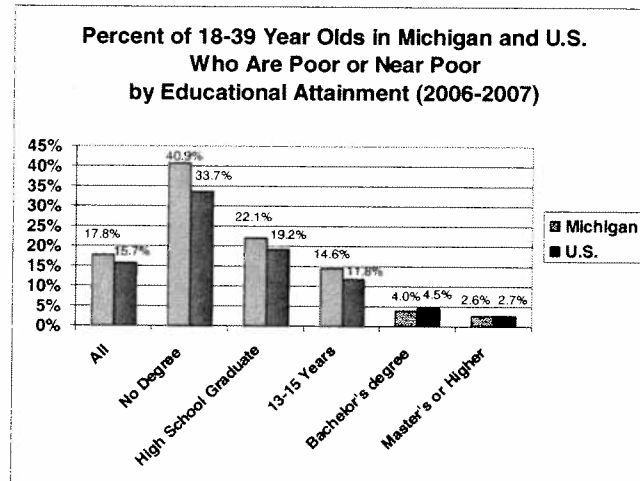
What do we know about Michigan's dropout crisis?

- 21,000 young people left high school without a diploma in 2007. Another 12,000 did not graduate "on-time" but were still on a path to graduation.
- The 50 schools with the highest dropout rates include urban and rural districts.
- Children of color and low-income children disproportionately affected.

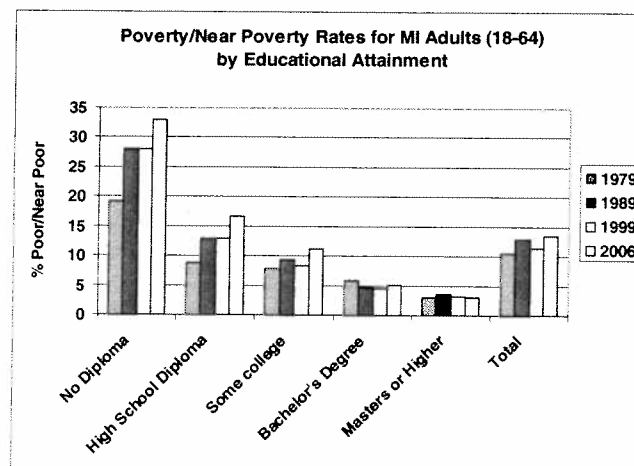
Teenage dropouts are less likely to be employed in Michigan than U.S.



Michigan dropouts are much more likely to be poor or near poor.



Dropping out is more likely to result in poverty now than in the past.



Dropouts are more reliant on public assistance.

